

AN ADDITION TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF PUERTO RICO

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During our studies for a forthcoming treatment of the Orchid Flora of Puerto Rico, we have discovered the presence of Epidendrum pseudoramosum Schltr., a species heretofore not reported from Puerto Rico.

Epidendrum pseudoramosum Schltr. in Fedde Rep. 10: 361. 1912.

Type: GUATEMALA: Alta Verapaz, near Coban, Sep 1907, Turckheim II 1951 (Holotype: B; isotype: AMES).

A search of the major herbaria of Europe and the United States has failed to uncover the holotype. The holotype was presumably at Berlin (B) and lost during World War II. Therefore we here designate as a lectotype the isotype at the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames (AMES).

Additional Specimens Examined: PUERTO RICO: Caribbean National Forest, El Yunque Trail, 0.2 km from summit of El Yunque, 2 Dec 1981, Sauleda et al 2013 (FTG, USF); Caribbean National Forest, El Yunque Trail, 0.2 km from summit of El Yunque, 7 Nov 1983, Sauleda et al 8532 (FTG, USF); Punta Torrecilla, 14 Nov 1979, Lioqier et al 30043 (UPR); Mt. Guilarte, 22 Jan 1980, Lioqier et al 30318 (UPR).

Plant epiphytic, rhizomatous, pendent to semi-erect, to 42 cm long; roots numerous, slender, velamentous; rhizome short, enclosed by scarious sheaths; stem basally terete, becoming flattened towards apex, usually with 1-3 short lateral branches near apex, enclosed by tubular leaf-sheaths, to 16 leaves; leaves distichous, coriaceous, articulated with the leaf-sheaths, lanceolate to linear-elliptic, obtuse to subacute, emarginate, to 8 cm long, 1.2 cm wide; inflorescence terminal, to 3.8 cm long, short spicate raceme with short peduncle, to 4 flowers, flowers non-resupinate; floral bracts conduplicate, ovate, obtuse to subacute, concealing ovary, to 1.2 cm long, 1.2 cm wide; ovary pedicellate, sessile, short and stout, to 0.8 cm long; sepals and petals green to

greenish-yellow or greenish-brown, glossy, fleshy and rigid, ringent; dorsal sepal elliptic, obtuse, to 0.8 cm long, 0.2 cm wide; lateral sepals obliquely elliptic, obtuse, to 0.8 cm long, 0.3 cm wide; petals linear, obtuse, to 0.7 cm long, 0.1 cm wide; labellum green to greenish-yellow, clawed, claw adnate to column, disc cordate, apex obtuse, basally bicallose, to 0.3 cm wide, 0.4 cm long; column short, blunt, apex dentate, to 0.2 cm long, 0.2 cm wide, anther terminal; capsule ellipsoid, to 1.3 cm long, 0.7 cm wide.

This species was first collected in Puerto Rico by Liogier in 1979 but identified as Epidendrum rigidum Jacq. It is distinguished from E. rigidum by its short pedunculate inflorescence and its branching and pendent to semi-erect stem. Epidendrum rigidum has a spicate inflorescence with a long peduncle and a simple erect stem.

Epidendrum pseudoramosum closely resembles and can be confused with E. ramosum Jacq. However, these two species can be distinguished easily by examining the flowers. The sepals, petals and apex of the labellum of E. ramosum are acute. In E. pseudoramosum, the sepals, petals and apex of the labellum are obtuse.

This species occurs in high altitude (1000-1200 m) wet forests growing epiphytically on large trees.

Additional Distribution: Greater and Lesser Antilles, Central America and northern South America (Garay & Sweet, 1974).

LITERATURE CITED

- Garay, L. A. and H. R. Sweet, 1974. The Orchidaceae, In: R. A. Howard, Flora of the Lesser Antilles. Arnold Arb., Harv. Univ., Jamaica Plain, MA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the Directors, Curators and staff members of the herbaria cited in the text for their cooperation and help. We acknowledge the generous field assistance given by Julio Melendez of Puerto Rico and Dr. Bruce Hansen of the University of South Florida. This research was supported in part by donations from the Tropical Orchid Society of West Palm Beach, Florida.